



DCFS Latino Advisory Council
6201 S Emerald Chicago, IL
November 14, 2018
8:30am – 5:00pm

Chair-Person:

Juanita Calderon

Past Chair-Person:

Jose Alex Medina

Chair-Elect:

Nancy Rodriguez

Scribe:

Dulce Ramirez

DCFS Members:

Julia Camacho de M.
Vanessa Castro
Maria Hernandez
Sydney Juarez
Azalea Mejia
Beatriz Ramirez
Liliana Romero

POS Members:

Jennifer Contreras
Yvonne Cordero
Lisa Marie Perez
Yeni Rojas

Ex-officio Members:

Jose J. Lopez, OLS

Director's Liaison:

Daniel Fitzgerald,
Affirmative Action

Committees:

Child Safety and
Permanency

Community Risk
Reduction and
Staffing

Data validity and
Disproportionality

Strategic
Communications

Latino Family
Institute

Attendance: Yvonne Cordero, Maria Hernandez, Azalea Mejia, Lisa Marie Perez, Beatriz Ramirez, Nancy Rodriguez, Yeni Rojas, Liliana Romeo, Jose Lopez, Daniel Fitzgerald. Via phone Juanita Calderon and Dulce Patron

Excused: Vanessa Castro, Jose Garcia and Sydney Juarez

Absent: Julia Camacho and Jennifer Contreras

Guests: Patricia Aguilar

Meeting called to order at 9:05am

A. Welcome/Team Building/Vision Casting

- a. Nancy Rodriguez led this activity by members sharing their personal goals for 2019.

B. Review of minutes

- a. September 2018 minutes were reviewed and amended. Yvonne motioned to pass the minutes as amended and Beatriz second the motion. September meeting minutes were passed as amended unanimously.
- b. October 2018 minutes were reviewed and amended. Yeni motioned to pass the minutes as amended and Lilian second the motion. The October meeting minutes were passed as amended.

C. Office of Latino Services-

- a. Jose reported that his office participated in 4 employment recruitments events in conjunction with the foster parent recruitment. He explained that since his office does not have a recruitment budget, he attends events that have no registration fees. He reported that his connection in the community have also provided opportunities for free recruitment. He reported that he is attending an event on this upcoming Friday with the Latino Caucus and he will have a table to recruit both workers and foster parents.
- b. OLS reported that the hiring bilingual test is being updated.
- c. He reported that he received many calls from workers requesting for the contact information to the various consulates in Chicago. He reported that one of his goals is to make this information available to all workers.

D. Burgos Coordinator

- a. Per Burgos report presented by Nancy, currently there are 224 + DCFS bilingual employees and although there has been an increase, continued recruitment is needed.

- E. **POS Report** – POS LAC members came together to identify issues/concerns that affect POS staff the families they serve. Jose Lope will assist in the creation and ongoing work with this committee. POS members in this group include Jennifer, Yvonne, Lisa Marie, and Yeni.

F. Committee Reports

- a. Child Safety & Permanency – The committee's plan to review the POS dashboard to compare with DCFS has been put on hold because the dashboard was reported to be on hold.
- b. Community Risk Reduction & Staffing – This committee reported that they were unable to meet due to recent extra projects/ involvements with the planning of the Family Institute Day.
- c. Data Validity & Disproportionality- Nancy reported that based on the placement report (need clarification on type of report including date and area), the number of cases assigned to staff is 15-18 cases.
- d. Strategic Communications- The committee reported that the Noticia's newsletter was completed and was made available during LAC's Family Institute Day. The committee requested for volunteers to write articles from the event and/or to share pictures taken.

G. Old Business

- a. **Director's letter** Re: elimination of positions (sex abuse coordinator and cook central ACR position). This ad-hoc committee reported that they tried to meet to write the letter but it was difficult due to work commitments. This ad-hoc will continue and Juanita will continue to take the lead. Nancy reported that she want to join this committee. Daniel reported that he spoke to Michal C. Jones regarding the positions and will follow up.
- b. **Motion for increased POS membership**- Motion was withdrawn. It was concluded that LAC needs to first fill the vacant POS membership before any changes can be made to the by-laws. Currently there are three vacant POS positions in LAC's membership.

- c. **Immigration Paper** – Immigration document was completed however this will be reviewed and will be revised if needed. Letter will be forwarded to the director once is completed.
- d. **Status on Intact Paper** – The decision was made to end work on this position paper because the department continues to make changes to policy therefor any recommendations given may not be valid when policy is finalized. This position paper will be explored in the future if the need arises.
- e. **LAC Historical document**- Julia agreed to review and amend historical document. This will be presented at the next meeting.
- f. **Follow up on non-attendees** – A re-commitment letter will be included in the new LAC binders to be presented during next month's retreat.

H. New Business

- a. **Summits**- This month's summit was cancel due to LAC's currently busy schedule. A recommendation was made to decrease the number of summits from quarterly to bi-annually. This will be further discussed.
- b. **Ex-officio members** – It was announced that Deputy of Affirmative Action, Daniel Fitzgerald, is the new Ex-officio designated by the current DCFS Director. Burgos Coordinator, Lourdes Burgos, does not wish to be nominated as ex-officio because she wants to focus on her role as Burgos coordinator but will continue to provide reports needed to achieve LAC's mandate.
- c. **Other:** Daniel recommended that a tracking sheet be created to keep track of LAC outstanding tasks. Jose agreed to e-mail all of LAC members the tracking sheet used by Quality Assurance to be considered for LAC use. Feedback from LAC members requested upon receipt of tracking sheet. The executive committee will finalize the tracking sheet based on member's feedback.

Meeting adjourned at 12:43pm.

Submitted by Beatriz Ramirez